

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 57

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to designate February 13, 2013, as “Tennessee Recyclers Day” in Tennessee and to commend and recognize Tennessee’s recyclers for their contributions to our state’s economy and for their efforts to protect the environment and promote energy efficiency.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should commend and recognize Tennessee’s recyclers; and

WHEREAS, recycling in Tennessee protects the environment, conserves natural resources, promotes energy efficiency, and supports economic development; and

WHEREAS, the manufacturing of consumer goods made from recycled materials adds \$4.3 billion annually to Tennessee’s economy and employs 4,200 Tennesseans in manufacturing careers; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee, the recycling industry is directly responsible for more than 37,440 jobs, \$1.5 billion in annual personal income, and an estimated \$69 billion in tax revenue each year; and

WHEREAS, additionally, Tennessee cities, counties, and businesses dispose of 6,800,000 tons of solid waste, paying average landfill disposal fees of approximately \$220 million; and

WHEREAS, during the same period, conventional collection programs recycle 1,300,000 tons of materials, saving landfill disposal fees of approximately \$42 million; and

WHEREAS, the recycling industry is comprised of haulers, collectors, processors, brokers, recycling equipment sales and manufacturers, and end users, or manufacturers who use recycled material feedstock and make recycled content products from it; and

WHEREAS, through the recognition and promotion of the economic, energy, and environmental benefits of recycling, Tennessee's recycling industry will grow, thereby creating efficient market-based solutions for various energy and waste management concerns; and

WHEREAS, the significant energy benefits of recycling provide greater diversity and reliability to the Tennessee energy grid while protecting the state's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the manufacture of recycled products requires, on average, seventeen times less energy than manufacturing the same products from virgin materials; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the energy saved from recycling reached 900 trillion BTUs nationwide, equal to the amount of energy used by nine million American households; recycling is a sustainable energy practice; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the traditionally understood benefits of recycling as a conservation and waste management tool, recycling is becoming known as an economic and energy source used to help combat the nation's growing economic and energy crisis, and it is fitting that we applaud Tennessee's recyclers for their efforts; and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby designate February 13, 2013, as "Tennessee Recyclers Day" in Tennessee and commend and recognize Tennessee's recyclers for their contributions to our state's economy and for their efforts to protect the environment and promote energy efficiency. All citizens of and visitors to Tennessee are encouraged to participate in recycling and to learn where they can recycle locally and what materials are included in the programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.